

The background image shows a person's hands working with small green seedlings in a black plastic nursery tray. The person is wearing a green long-sleeved shirt. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. The title 'Lumsden Community Nursery' is written in large, white, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

Lumsden Community Nursery

Proposal by Reforest Northern Southland
June 2020



Who are Reforest Northern Southland?

***Reforest Northern Southland* is a community trust, set up by a group of likeminded locals, with the aim of bringing native flora and fauna back to the region, and promoting community growth and ecological education.**

Our focus is on growing, replanting and regenerating areas of native bush, from riparian and marginal planting, to larger reserves and parks, for the benefit of the local ecosystem and the enjoyment of the local community.



From little seeds grow big ideas...

We started with a vision to reforest Northern Southland and a mission to grow 10,000 trees in our first year.

It's not as hard as it sounds... we're on our way already!

Growing trees and plants can be done fairly easily. Starting with just a tiny seed (and some dirt), all that is needed is a little care, attention and time.

Introducing



**Lumsden
Community
Nursery**



A space for plants *and communities* to grow

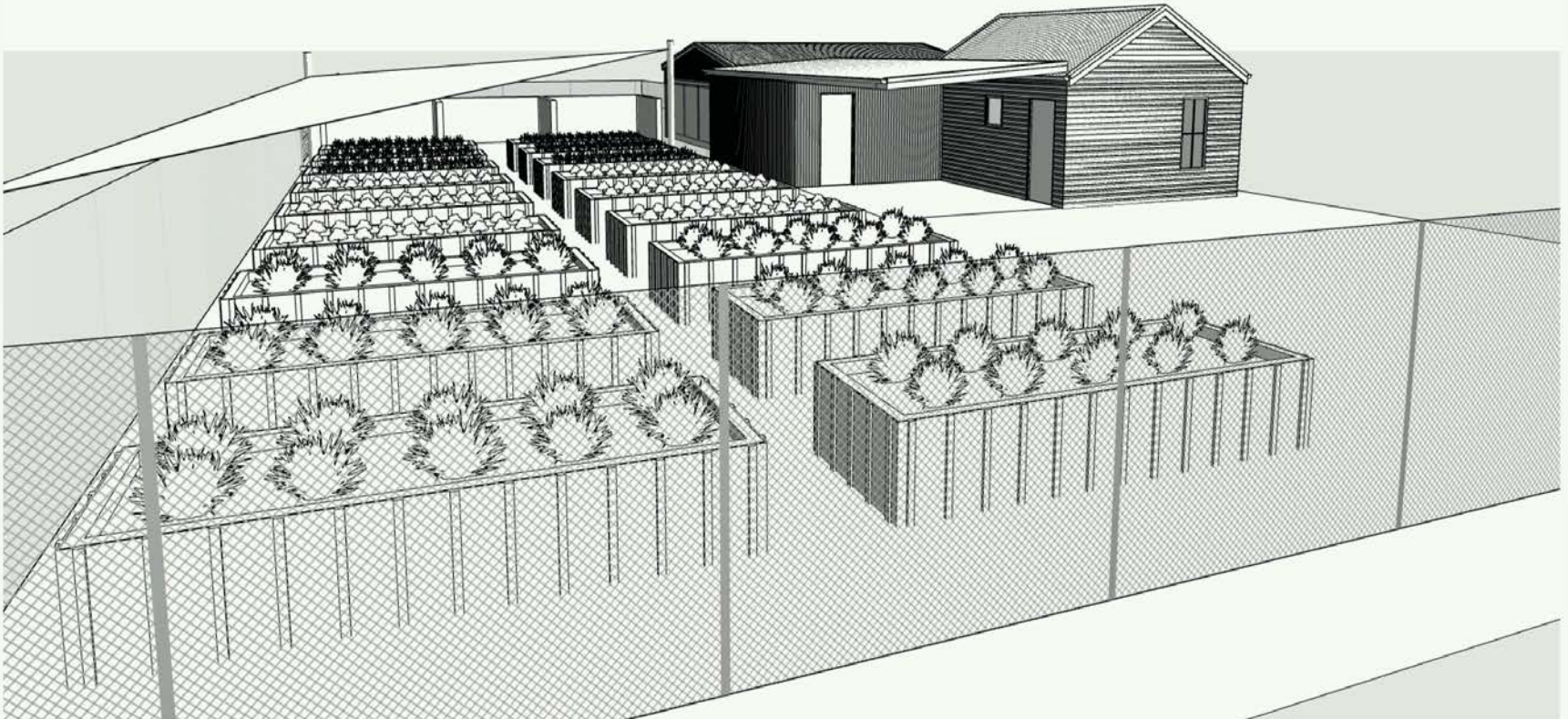
Reforest Northern Southland is proposing to create a community nursery in the Northern Southland town of Lumsden.

Conveniently located in the centre of Lumsden, the hub of Northern Southland, the nursery will be a place for learning and community building, and a place to grow native plants and trees for revegetation projects throughout the region.

A green community hub

The nursery will provide a sanctuary for the community and a place to: gather and collaborate, run planting workshops, nursery sessions and work with schools and community groups to educate and grow.

- **Weekly nursery sessions**
- **School groups**
- **Workshops**
- **Presentations**
- **Advice**



Benefits

...to the community.

There are many benefits to be gained from the project; from creating green spaces for people to enjoy, to the positive environmental impact.

Gardening is one of life's great 'levellers', bringing people together over their passion for plants and pots.

It's an activity that anyone can get involved in and doesn't require high levels of experience or knowledge to get involved.

Reforest Northern Southland, through the community nursery and our replanting projects will result in the **restoration of native bush** throughout the community, providing a place for locals and visitors to enjoy time in a biodiverse, natural setting that **showcases the Southland region's flora and fauna.**

Benefits

...to the environment.

The environmental benefits of replanting are being widely reported today, and there are many initiatives bringing reforestation to the public consciousness.

Planting trees is one of the easiest and most cost-effective ways we can improve the health of our local ecosystems, the environment, and the planet.

With concerns about global CO2 levels and damage to the environment increasing, **the nursery will provide an opportunity for locals to get involved** in an issue they're passionate about while making the town more beautiful.

It's a simple equation... **more native trees and plants = more places for our wildlife to live and thrive.**

When the fruits of our labour start to grow; locals, visitors, and other people who travel through the town every day will stop to learn more, talk about the projects, and will be able to enjoy watching the community grow.

Our Plans

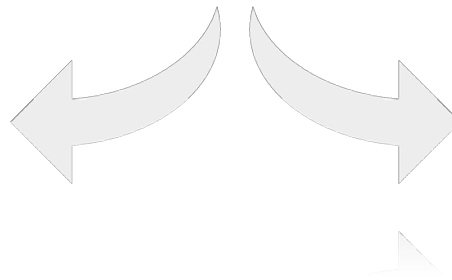
YEAR ONE

The nursery aims to grow 10,000 native plants & trees



70%

Will be donated to
community planting
projects



30%

Will be sold to raise
funds to cover running
costs and materials

Why not just buy plants from already established nurseries?

1

Locally grown plants from eco-sourced seeds will provide the best chance of success, and ensure appropriate biodiversity for the local area.

2

A community space will bring people together, providing a place to teach and to learn, to share knowledge, and to build community health and wellbeing.

3

We're starting small, but we aim to grow and plant large numbers of plants. **Growing the plants ourselves will make the project more economically viable.**

A few words on eco-sourcing

It might not be a term that most people are familiar with but it's an important concept in botany, ecology and revegetation.

What is eco-sourcing?

Eco-sourcing is the collecting and growing of seeds from local remnant native forest, bush or shrubland, for planting in the same eco-region



Why is it important?

New Zealand has an amazing variety of plants and trees, spread out over a wide geographical area. Although a plant may grow throughout the country, it can vary from area to area.

Eco-sourcing ensures the plants grown are not only suited to the local conditions, it also protects unique genetic variations that occur across regions.



Who's going to run the nursery?

The nursery will be created and managed by *Reforest Northern Southland*, with a group of core volunteers organising and managing projects.

It will provide **employment** for a part time nursery manager who will oversee the day to day running and upkeep of the space.

We will run **weekly nursery sessions** where volunteers will help with various tasks include planting seeds, taking cuttings, potting up seedlings, weeding (...yes, *everyone loves weeding!*).

The plants grown in the nursery will be planted by volunteers at our **community planting days**.

Examples of successful community nurseries



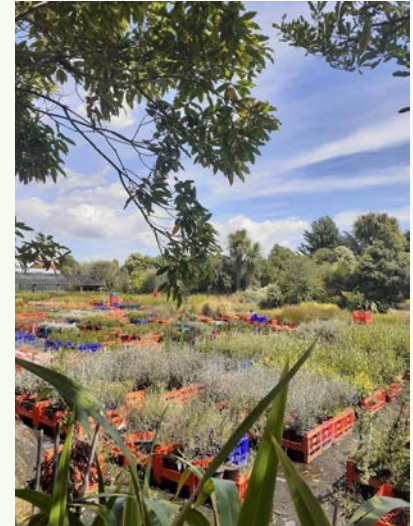
Based in Wanaka

7800 plants planted in 2019

Established in 2008

3387 volunteer hours in 2019

Examples of successful community nurseries



Based in Christchurch

Established in 1990

Grows 100,000+ plants a year

Approx 20,800 volunteer hours
in 2019



About Us

***The Northern Southland
Reforestation Trust* was formed late
2019, and we're pretty proud of
what we've achieved so far.**

We've held community planting days,
planted the first stage of Lumsden Creek,
a project that will see the full length of the
creek planted with native plants and trees.

We've made contact with local
landowners, collected and sown seed
from remnant bush, held community
nursery sessions and grown 1000+
seedlings.

Community planting day at Lumsden Creek

Dec 2019



Community nursery sessions

Spring 2019



Seed collecting

Locations around
Northern Southland



Southland's Plant History

Pre 1800's

Before human settlement the Southland region was heavily forested; from tall podocarp to silver beech, red beech and mountain beech forest. Shrublands and grasslands covered valley floors, and tussocks, flax and sedges inhabited wetlands.

“

At the time of human settlement, Southland was almost entirely covered by forest... The extensive forests of the Southland Plains and hill country were largely destroyed by fire between 800 and 600 years ago... Forest cover in the south and east was depleted further during European settlement by fire, milling and conversion to pasture or plantation forest.

Southland Protection Strategy
A report to the Nature Heritage Fund Committee

Southland's Plant History

Mid 1800's

European explorers arrived in the region looking for areas to settle and farm. Finding forests and boggy scrublands they set fires across much of Southland to clear the way for future settlers, perhaps not realising the full repercussions of their devastating actions on the endemic flora and fauna.

“

To the left we observed thousands of acres of dead forest, apparently destroyed in one burning...We crossed the Oreti River with ease as it was only ankle deep. We set fire to the vegetation and continued along the lower slopes of the West Dome...we returned to the Dome setting fire to the grasses to clear the track for future travellers.

Report from Surveyor Thomson - 1857

From 'History of Northern Southland' by G.A. Hamilton

The Future

We'd love to see a series of community nurseries established across Southland.

Southland is split into several ecological districts. Imagine if each district had its own community nursery collecting seed from, and growing plants suited to, their own unique biomes. The difference we could make together to the communities and environment of Southland would be substantial.

Thank you for your interest

If you would like more information, or have any questions,
don't hesitate to get in touch.

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